

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2174

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SHEN'S OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF US- ROC
RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. DURING VISIT ON CONSULTATIONS, ROC
AMBASSADOR TO US JAMES SHEN PUBLICLY PROVIDED RELATIVELY
OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF US- ROC RELATIONS WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY
DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN POPULAR CONFIDENCE AND CALM. SHEN, WITH
PRESS APPROVAL, FORECAST GREATER ROC EFFORT IN US AND
PROSPECT IS FOR CONSIDERABLY BEEFED UP ROC OFFICIAL
PRESENCE IN US IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING TEN- DAY VISIT ON CONSULTATION, ROC AMBASSADOR
TO US JAMES SHEN PUBLICLY STRESSED FAVORABLE STATE OF
US- ROC RELATIONSHIP, AS REPORTED BY PRESS, SHEN'S CENTRAL
THEME IN MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES
AND IN DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THAT NOTWITHSTANDING
" REGRETTABLE " US- PRC AGREEMENT ON LIAISON OFFICES, CLOSE AND
FRIENDLY US- ROC RELATIONS " HAVE NOT UNDERGONE ANY BASIC
CHANGE IN PAST YEAR." SHEN ACCOMPANIED THIS WITH EXPRESSION OF
CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF US- ROC RELATIONS AND OF BELIEF IN
CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SINCERITY OF " PRIVATE AND PUBLIC " US ASSURANCES ON THE
PRESERVATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES AND COMMITMENT TO THE ROC.

HE DEPICTED THE LIAISON OFFICE AGREEMENT AS A PEKING INITIATIVE AND CONCESSION FORCED BY THE REGIME'S WEAKNESS.

3. WITHOUT SERIOUSLY DETRACTING FROM HIS POSITIVE PUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF US POLICY TOWARDS ROC, SHEN DID EXPRESS DISPLEASURE WITH US RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PRC, AND IN ONE INSTANCE DESCRIBED LIAISON OFFICE AGREEMENT AS "DETRIMENTAL TO OUR VITAL INTERESTS." HE WARNED THAT AS RESULT THIS AGREEMENT, ROC FACES NEW STAGE IN DEALINGS WITH US WHICH WILL REQUIRE GREATER DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT, INCLUDING INCREASED WORK AMONG OVERSEAS CHINESE. HE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD PLANS FOR SUCH GREATER EFFORT.

4. EDITORIALS ON SUBJECT WELCOMED SHEN'S ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND CONCENTRATED ON URGING GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDS AND PERSONNEL FOR GREATER EFFORTS IN US. LIEN HO PAO EVEN CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CLOSER CONTACTS WITH PRO-PEKING CHINESE SCHOLARS AND NATIONALS IN STATES, ALTHOUGH FOR PURPOSE OF EDUCATING THEM ABOUT "ATROCIOUS" RULE OF COMMUNISTS. PAPER ALSO ADVOCATED POLICY OF "ANYONE WHO IS NOT AN ENEMY IS A FRIEND."

5. COMMENT. GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF MAINTAINING POPULAR CONFIDENCE AND CALM UNDOUBTEDLY PROMPTED SHEN'S OPTIMISTIC PUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF US-ROC RELATIONS. HOWEVER HE MUST HAVE PRESENTED

MORE SOBER READING IN MORE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF THIS, OTHER THAN THE FACT OF MEETING, PRESS PROVIDED NO COVERAGE OF HIS REPORT TO KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN BRIEF COMMENTS TO DCM AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER SHEN DISPLAYED SOME ANXIETY ABOUT EVOLUTION OF US ATTITUDES, ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS, AND INDICATED HE DID NOT RELISH SHARING WASHINGTON SCENE WITH HEAD OF PRC LIAISON OFFICE.

6. SHEN'S STATEMENTS AND PRESS STORIES INDICATE THAT ONE ROC RESPONSE TO IMPENDING OPENING OF PRC LIAISON OFFICE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE AUGMENTATION AND UPGRADING OF ITS OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN US. MOFA SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT KONSIN C. SHAH, MOST RECENTLY AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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IS LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT.
MCCONAUGHY

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